

/145 cont./

771 refrained from having a porahêi when there was some white man
796 in the vicinity, and even nowadays the kunumî piêta, the pierc-
177 ing of the lips of the boys, is done with the rigorous exclusion of
829 any foreigners (although, as we know, for a different reason).

782 Concerning the common prayers, however, at present the Kayová
[54] already do not show the least inhibition before white spectators;
on the contrary, one notes in them a certain degree of exhibition-
ism, whose psychological reasons seem to be the need for com-
pensation: constantly scorned by the white man, who ridicules
their tribal customs, they accentuate these aspects in living with
the white man, in order to overcome the feeling of inferiority
that seizes them before a stranger.

771 One of the factors responsible for the infiltration of new ele-
177 ments in the religious system of this or that subgroup is that fami-
178 lies belonging to two of them or to all three live together in the
[621] same village. The doctrinal and ritual discrepancies open the way
for the infiltration of alien ideas, above all Christian ones, which
the Indians become acquainted with during their numerous peregrina-
tions and trips and other forms of contact with caboclo people.

771 A curious example of intratribal religious acculturation, the
177 exchange of elements between individuals of one subgroup and
159 another, is that of the Indian Pascoal, a rootless Nandêva from
156 "somewhere" on the Paraguayan border, whom I had met in 1949
among the Kayová of Amambai /146/ and who a year later lived
as a curer in the post of Dourados, enjoying great prestige and
counting numerous customers among Indians and caboclos. His
ambivalent attitude before the Kayová was significant: on the
one hand he accentuated what distinguished him, and, on the other
hand, he tried to give his explanations in terms of the Kayová re-
ligion and social organization. Furthermore, he established a connec-
tion between native concepts and those of the rural Catholicism of
the region and other elements of the civilized world.